

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 090994  
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 /026 R

66011

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:MJWILKINSON:EM  
APPROVED BY EUR/SOV:MJWILKINSON  
IO/SCT:FLANCETTI

-----058673 081350Z /20

R 080636Z APR 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USMISSION GENEVA

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FOLLOWING REPEAT MOSCOW 06672 ACTION SECSTATE INFO  
LENINGRAD APR 04.

QUOTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 06672

DEPT PASS EPA FOR SHOSTAL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, PINT, PGOV, EGEN, TGEN, UR  
SUBJECT: NEW STATE COMMITTEE FORMED TO COORDINATE ENVIRON-  
MENTAL PROTECTION EFFORTS

1. ON MARCH 31 SOVIET PRESS REPORTED THAT THE PRESIDUM  
OF THE SUPREME SOVIET HAD TRANSFORMED THE FORMER MAIN  
ADMINISTRATION FOR HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL SERVICES (HYDROMET)  
INTO THE STATE COMMITTEE FOR HYDROMETEOROLOGY AND CONT-  
ROL OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT.

2. ON APRIL 3 EMBOFF DISCUSSED THE CHANGE WITH  
YURIY KAZAKOV OF HYDROMET, WHO IS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF  
THE US-USSR ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT. KAZAKOV SAID THAT  
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THE NEW STATE COMMITTEE WILL BE THE CHIEF AGENCY IN THE  
SOVIET GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATING ALL  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION EFFORTS. THE NEW STATE COMMITTEE  
WILL APPARENTLY HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR PLANNING FUTURE  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION PROGRAMS, FOR MONITORING CURRENT  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, AND WILL ALSO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR  
APPROVING ALL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FACILITIES AND

INSTALLATIONS IN ALL NEW INDUSTRIAL AND MUNICIPAL CONSTRUCTION. KAZAKOV NOTED THAT THE NEW STATE COMMITTEE WILL CORRESPOND IN PART TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY AND NATIONAL OCEANS AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION IN THE US. KAZAKOV EXPRESSED GREAT SATISFACTION WITH THE FORMATION OF THE NEW STATE COMMITTEE, COMMENTING "THIS IS SOMETHING FOR WHICH WE HAVE STRUGGLED FOR YEARS." KAZAKOV NOTED THAT YURIY IZRAEL', PRESENT CHAIRMAN OF HYDROMET, WILL PROBABLY BE NAMED HEAD OF THE NEW STATE COMMITTEE; HOWEVER, KAZAKOV ADDED THAT THIS QUESTION STILL REMAINS TO BE DECIDED BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

3. KAZAKOV STATED THAT NO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BODIES WHICH ARE PRESENTLY UNDER THE JURISDICTIONS OF OTHER .MINISTRIES OR AGENCIES HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE NEW STATE COMMITTEE. KAZAKOV, HOWEVER, NOTED THAT SUCH TRANSFERS MIGHT OCCUR IN THE FUTURE. KAZAKOV ALSO STATED THAT THE SOVIET BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION HAS NOT BEEN INCREASED; HOWEVER, HE INDICATED THAT FORMATION OF THE NEW STATE COMMITTEE MIGHT LEAD TO AN INCREASE IN THE FUTURE. IN THIS CONNECTION, KAZAKOV NOTED THAT THE ALLOCATION OF APPROXIMATELY ELEVEN BILLION RUBLES , FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN THE PRESENT FIVE YEAR PLAN CHIEFLY COVERS THE COST OF NEW EQUIPMENT FOR CURRENTLY OPERATING PLANTS WHICH ARE FOUND IN VIOLATION OF POLLUTION STANDARDS. ANTI-POLLUTION EQUIPMENT FOR NEW PLANTS OR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FACILITIES IS INCLUDED IN THE BUDGET OF THE PARENT MINISTRY (OTHER HYDROMET OFFICIALS HAVE EARLIER TOLD US THAT THIS BUDGETARY ALLOCATION OF 11 BILLION RUBLES REPRESENTS ABOUT ONE TENTH OF ALL SOVIET EXPENDITURES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DURING THE CURRENT FIVE YEAR PLAN PERIOD; HOWEVER, WE ARE UNABLE TO CONFIRM THIS ESTIMATE.)

4. IN SPITE OF THE APPARENT INTENTION THAT THE NEW STATE COMMITTEE SERVE AS THE CHIEF COORDINATING BODY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION EFFORTS, IT APPEARS THAT NUMEROUS OTHER SOVIET ORGANIZATIONS WILL RETAIN A FINGER IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL PIE. FOR EXAMPLE, KAZAKOV STATED THAT THE STATE COMMITTEE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WILL RETAIN APPROVAL AND FUNDING AUTHORITY FOR ALL SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. IN ADDITION, THE STATE COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDS WILL RETAIN AUTHORITY FOR SETTING ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS, WHILE GOSPLAN WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALLOCATING FUNDS FOR NEW INVESTMENT IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FACILITIES. HOWEVER, APPROVAL OF THE NEW STATE COMMITTEE WILL BE REQUIRED FOR ALL NEW FACILITIES IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

5. KAZAKOV COMMENTED THAT FORMATION OF THE NEW STATE COMMITTEE SHOULD HAVE NO EFFECT ON THE OPERATION OF

THE US-USSR ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT, FOR WHICH HYDROMET  
HAD SERVED AS THE SOVIET LEAD AGENCY.

6. COMMENT: IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO TELL WHETHER THE  
NEW STATE COMMITTEE WILL REALLY BE ABLE TO PLAY AN  
EFFECTIVE ROLE IN COORDINATING THE HITHERTO DIVERSE SOVIET  
EFFORTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. THE NUMEROUS SOVIET  
MINISTRIES AND AGENCIES WHICH PRESENTLY OWN A PIECE OF THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION WOULD PROBABLY BE RELUCTANT TO  
SURRENDER THEIR AUTHORITY (AND PERSONNEL) TO THE NEW STATE  
.COMMITTEE. INDEED, THE AIM OF THE NEW STATE COMMITTEE MAY  
NOT BE TO CONCENTRATE ALL EFFORTS UNDER ONE ROOF BUT  
SIMPLY TO ALLOW MORE EFFECTIVE COORDINATION AMONG THE  
VARIOUS MINISTRIES. KAZAKOV SEEMED TO INDICATE THIS  
INTENTION BY NOTING THAT WITHIN ITS SPHERE OF COMPETENCE  
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A STATE COMMITTEE HAS THE POWER TO GIVE DIRECTIVES TO  
MINISTRIES. THE NEW STATE COMMITTEE WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE  
SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED AUTHORITY IN COMPARISON TO HYDROMET,  
WHICH WAS PRIMARILY A MONITORING AGENCY. HOWEVER, IT  
REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THE NEW STATE COMMITTEE WOULD BE  
ABLE TO MAKE ITS WILL PREVAIL IN ANY POSSIBLE CONFRONTATION  
WITH THE HEAVY-WEIGHT PRODUCTION (AND POLLUTING) MINISTRIES.  
WE WILL PURSUE THE QUESTION OF ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES OF  
THE NEW STATE COMMITTEE DURING OUR NEXT MEETIG WITH  
IZRAEL'. TOON  
UNQUOTE VANCE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Document Number:** 1978STATE090994  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** MJWILKINSON:EM  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NEW STATE COMMITTEE FORMED TO COORDINATE ENVIRON- MENTAL PROTECTION EFFORTS  
**TAGS:** SENV, PINT, PGOV, EGEN, TGEN, UR  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014